

FISCAL NOTE

SB 3539

March 25, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes an inmate to receive up to one year of sentence credits when such inmate earns a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) while incarcerated.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

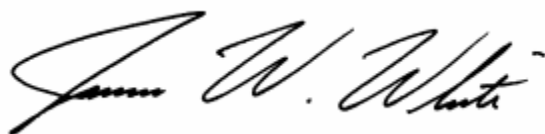
Decrease State Expenditures - \$5,584,600

Assumptions:

- In FY05, 598 inmates received GEDs. Of this number, approximately 60 percent would be eligible for reduced sentence (598 inmates x .60 = 359 inmates). Certain offenses require the inmate to serve 100 percent of the sentence and Class E and Class D offenses would not serve sufficient time to actually reduce time served.
- Reduction in the number of days that inmates would serve would result in a decrease in state expenditures of \$5,584,603.10 (359 inmates x 365.25 days = 131,124.75 days x \$42.59 = \$5,584,603.10)
- The reduction in expenditures would be reflected in the cost to the Department of Correction to house State felons in county jails. When offenders are released from prison, those inmates are replaced with state felons from the county jails. The housing per diem for the county jails for FY 2005-2006 is \$42.59. This per diem has varied between \$40.64 and \$45.25 during FY 1999 – 2005, with a peak of \$45.25 in FY 2001-2002. Due to this variation, the per diem in this estimate has not been adjusted for inflation.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

SB 3539